

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Season for Drownings Begins

There were 370 deaths from drowning in California last year. Most of these deaths occurred during the months of May, June, July and August, the numbers of deaths occurring during the principal months of the vacation season. Most deaths from this cause are in men. The number of women who drown is relatively small. About twenty-five per cent of all deaths from this cause are of persons who are between the ages of thirty-five and fifty-four years. The safest years for engaging in water sports are those between twenty and thirty-four years. Relatively few deaths from drowning occurred in persons who are of this age group. This indicates, perhaps, that individuals who are in the most vigorous stage of life are better able to protect themselves against the possible hazards of accidental drowning.

In the past ten years, 3851 persons have drowned in California. The greatest number of drownings to occur in any one year was in 1928, when a flood occurred on the Santa Clara River due to the collapse of the St. Francis Dam. Numbers of deaths from drowning in California, by years, are as follows:

1921	314
1922	341
1923	314
1924	340
1925	327
1926	407
1927	398
1928	708

1929	332
1930	370

The lives of many persons who have apparently drowned could be saved if a proper method of artificial respiration were used. The prone pressure method of producing artificial breathing is advocated by the United States Public Health Service, the American Red Cross and all leading public health organizations. Every individual who swims and everyone who may visit places where there is public swimming should know how to use this method of resuscitation. If applied promptly and properly it will save the lives of many persons who have apparently drowned. This method is also used with great success in the promotion of respiration in persons who have received heavy electric shocks, or who may have been asphyxiated by gas. The approach of the vacation season makes it important for all swimmers and all individuals who frequent swimming places to learn and practice this method of resuscitation. The large industrial plants and many public service corporations have provided means for instructing their employees relative to the use of the prone pressure method.

DR. MENERAY HEALTH OFFICER OF SONOMA

Dr. P. A. Meneray of Santa Rosa has been appointed Health Officer of Sonoma County to succeed Dr. S. S. Bogle.

CANCER DEATHS SHOW FURTHER INCREASE

Cancer deaths in California increased by 677 in 1930, a total of 7195 residents of California having died of this disease last year, an average of almost 20 such deaths for each day of the year. This represents a cancer death rate of 125.5 per hundred thousand population, as compared with a rate of 118.3 per hundred thousand population in 1929. Most deaths from cancer occur in those who are past 45 years of age. The following table shows the age distribution of cancer decedents in California, each year, for the past ten years:

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Under 25 yrs. -----	61	63	59	66	54	65	81	70	69	87
25 to 34 yrs. -----	94	125	122	123	135	134	152	138	124	190
35 to 44 yrs. -----	384	434	411	488	497	482	527	545	515	618
45 to 54 yrs. -----	819	858	918	982	942	1030	1064	1180	1189	1305
55 to 64 yrs. -----	1022	1156	1289	1401	1419	1470	1579	1678	1694	1912
65 and over -----	1645	1839	1903	2054	2231	2457	2524	2792	2927	3083
Total -----	4025	4484	4702	5114	5278	5638	5927	6403	6518	7195
Rate per 100,000 of population -----	107.2	112.8	112.1	115.9	114.0	116.2	116.9	121.0	118.3	125.5

It will be noted in this table that the cancer death rate has increased from 107.2 per hundred thousand population in 1921 to 125.5 per hundred thousand population in 1930. The numbers of deaths from this cause have increased from 4025 in 1921 to 7195 in 1930.

Cancer causes more deaths in women than in men. Comparatively few individuals of races other than white died of cancer in California in 1930. The disease affects, fatally, the stomach and liver more often than other organs of the body. Nearly one-third of all cancer deaths last year were caused by cancer of the stomach or liver. The following table shows the classifications by organs affected for deaths from cancer in 1929 and 1930:

Cancer	1929	1930
Buccal cavity -----	207	235
Stomach, liver -----	2182	2223
Peritoneum, intestines and rectum -----	947	1078
Female genital organs -----	892	1004
Breast -----	605	745
Skin -----	142	156
Other organs -----	1543	1754

AMENDS REGULATIONS GOVERNING LABORATORIES

The State Board of Public Health, at its last meeting, amended the regulations governing the approval of laboratories, as follows:

"From and after January 1, 1933, all technicians entrusted with independent work, in all laboratories approved by the State Board of Public Health, shall hold certificates of proficiency covering all divisions of the work that they may be called on to do."

Wise men learn more from fools than fools from the wise.—*Cato*.

CHILD HEALTH DAY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Congress by joint resolution has authorized and requested the President of the United States of America to proclaim annually that May Day is Child Health Day; and,

Whereas the responsibility for the well-being of children is a community responsibility as well as an individual duty; now

Therefore, I, Herbert Hoover, President of the United States of America, do call upon all Governors of the States of the Union, and all Governors of territories and possessions of the United States to declare to their people that May Day should be used wherever possible as Child Health Day, for the consideration of all public and private measures by which the health of our children may be conserved and advanced. I especially commend for consideration on that day "The Children's Charter" as set forth by the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done, at the City of Washington this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-one and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-fifth.

(Seal) HERBERT HOOVER.

By the President:

HENRY L. STIMSON,
Secretary of State.

PIT RIVER MOSQUITO DISTRICT FORMED

A mosquito abatement district, which embraces a large area of land in the vicinity of Fall River Mills in Shasta County, has been established. Mr. Burle J. Jones, County Farm Agent, and Mr. George Brown of Glenburn have been particularly active in the development of this district. The Board of Supervisors in Shasta County acted favorably upon petitions which were presented to that board on April 9. The following have been named as directors of the Pit River Mosquito Abatement District: George Brown of Glenburn, M. C. Whipple of Dana, Monar D. Nicholson of McArthur; F. M. Callison of Fall River Mills, Lester Arnold of Pittsville.

The State Department of Public Health has assisted in the preliminary plans for the organization of the district.

Like diamonds, we are cut by our own dust.—*Webster*.

CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK IN BERKELEY

The California Conference of Social Work will hold its twenty-third annual meeting in Berkeley May 27 to 31. The eight sections of the conference will hold individual meetings each morning. On each afternoon the twenty-four kindred groups affiliated with the conference will hold their meetings. All sections and groups will meet in general session each evening. Conference activities will be centered in the new International House, where living accommodations for many delegates may be obtained. Meetings will be held in Wheeler Hall on the University of California Campus, Women's Club, Hearst Gymnasium and the International House.

The program for the Section on Public Health will deal with such subjects as crippled children in California, mental hygiene and social service work in chronic diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis and cardiac cases. Medical social work will be discussed in a joint meeting with the California District, American Association of Hospital Social Workers. Dr. Edward F. Glaser, member of the State Board of Health, San Francisco, is chairman of the health section.

The Section on Family and Child Welfare will discuss such subjects as family welfare, mental hygiene with particular reference to children, children's institutions and the family. Miss Eleanor Stockton, R.N., of the San Francisco Health Department, is chairman of this section.

BOARD AMENDS RULES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE DEAD

The State Board of Public Health, at its last meeting, amended rules 2, 3 and 4 of the rules for the transportation of the dead as provided in section 20 of the Public Health Act of 1907. The amended rules read as follows: Rule 2. The bodies of persons dead of Asiatic cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, diphtheria, membranous croup, scarlet fever (scarlatina, scarlet rash), erysipelas, glanders, anthrax, or leprosy, shall not be accepted for transportation unless prepared for transportation by (a) arterial and cavity injection with a disinfecting fluid approved by the state board of health; (b) disinfection and stopping of all orifices with absorbent cotton, and (c) washing the body with a disinfectant; said body shall be properly clothed, and placed in an airtight metal-lined casket, all joints and seams hermetically sealed, and all enclosed in a strong wooden transportation case; provided, that instead of such metallic lined casket, the body having been prepared for transportation by disinfecting as above, may be placed in a wooden casket, same encased in a metal lined transportation case, all joints and seams of said case hermetically soldered.

In the transportation of bodies dead from any disease named in this rule, such body must not be accompanied by persons or articles which have been exposed to the infection of the disease, unless certified by the health officer to have been properly disinfected.

Rule 3. The bodies of those dead from typhoid fever, puerperal fever, tuberculosis, measles, or other contagious or infectious diseases not enumerated under rules 1 and 2 of this section, may be received for transportation when prepared for trans-

portation by arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid, washing the exterior of the body with the same; said body must be properly clothed and placed in an air-tight metal lined casket, and enclosed in a wooden transportation case; or a wooden casket inclosed in a metal lined transportation case; provided, that this shall apply only to the bodies which cannot reach their destinations within ninety hours from the time of death.

Rule 4. The bodies of those dead from any cause not stated in rules 1, 2 and 3 of this section, shall not be received for transportation unless said body has been embalmed and prepared by a licensed embalmer, and placed in a sound casket and enclosed in a wooden transportation case. If the body cannot reach its destination within ninety hours from the time of death, it shall be placed in a metal lined casket or a wooden casket enclosed in a metal lined transportation case.

REVISED EDITION OF "PRENATAL CARE"

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has issued a revised edition of the bureau's booklet on "Prenatal Care." This publication contains complete and detailed information and is written in an easily understood style. It is illustrated and is a valuable publication for public health workers engaged in advisory service in the care of prospective mothers.

"Ailments regarded as 'minor' should be recognized promptly and accepted as the signal that the person is moving in the wrong direction."—*How to Live*.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria.

49 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Piedmont 1, Butte County 2, Fresno County 1, Fresno 3, Imperial County 1, El Centro 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 2, Burbank 1, Los Angeles 13, South Gate 2, Santa Ana 3, Tustin 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 2, Burlingame 1, Gilroy 1, San Jose 1, Exeter 1.

Scarlet Fever.

155 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Fresno County 4, Imperial County 18, El Centro 1, Los Angeles County 9, Avalon 1, Compton 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 5, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 35, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 1, Mendocino County 1, Carmel 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 1, Placentia 1, Placer County 2, Riverside County 15, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 9, Manteca 1, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo County 2, Burlingame 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Watsonville 1, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 1, Tulare County 1, Oxnard 1, Davis 5.

Influenza.

77 cases of influenza have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 38, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 3, Hawthorne 1, Monterey 2, Salinas 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 4, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 8, Paso Robles 1, Santa Paula 1, Winters 3.

Measles.

1461 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Alameda 12, Berkeley 191, Livermore 6, Oakland 60, Piedmont 19, San Leandro 1, Butte County 8, Chico 2, Contra Costa County 4, Pittsburg 1, Richmond 1, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 53, Fresno 76, Reedley 3, Callexico 1, Kern County 77,

* From reports received on April 20th and 21st for week ending April 18th.

Kings County 2, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 39, Alhambra 3, Burbank 3, Claremont 2, Compton 11, Glendale 36, Inglewood 6, Long Beach 27, Los Angeles 160, Montebello 2, Pomona 6, San Fernando 6, San Gabriel 3, San Marino 2, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 5, Lynwood 2, South Gate 1, Madera County 4, Madera 1, Chowchilla 1, Merced County 46, Merced 8, Monterey County 27, Monterey 1, Salinas 62, Soledad 1, Orange County 15, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 19, Santa Ana 30, Placentia 2, San Clemente 3, Placer County 3, Riverside County 10, Riverside 11, Sacramento County 8, Sacramento 8, San Bernardino County 4, Colton 3, Redlands 5, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 40, Colton 1, National City 3, San Diego 86, San Francisco 34, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo County 4, Paso Robles 25, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 29, San Mateo 10, Santa Barbara County 9, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 4, Gilroy 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 3, Yreka 5, Benicia 1, Stanislaus County 24, Modesto 1, Lindsay 1, Sonora 1, Ventura County 48, Ojai 4.

Smallpox.

53 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Contra Costa County 3, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 8, Los Angeles 3, Salinas 6, Sacramento 1, Redlands 1, Watsonville 1, Solano County 1, Tehama County 10, Tulare County 14, Visalia 3.

Typhoid Fever.

9 cases of typhoid have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles 1, South Pasadena 1, San Francisco 4, California 1.**

Whooping Cough.

385 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Alameda 8, Berkeley 25, Oakland 12, Piedmont 3, San Leandro 1, Hercules 1, Pinole 4, Fresno

County 4, Fresno 7, Kern County 3, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 33, Alhambra 2, Arcadia 1, Compton 5, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 23, Monrovia 12, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, Torrance 3, South Gate 1, Maywood 1, Tujunga 1, Gardena 1, Carmel 1, Orange County 7, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Plumas County 4, Riverside 5, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 50, San Diego 2, San Francisco 29, San Joaquin County 46, Lodi 3, Stockton 4, Tracy 19, San Luis Obispo County 11, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Clara County 8, San Jose 8, Stanislaus County 7, Yolo County 2, Woodland 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

3 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2.

Leprosy.

Santa Paula reported 2 cases of leprosy.

Poliomyelitis.

Los Angeles reported 4 cases of poliomyelitis.

Trichinosis.

San Francisco reported one case of trichinosis.

Food Poisoning.

Santa Ana reported 12 cases of food poisoning.

Septic Sore Throat.

6 cases of septic sore throat have been reported, as follows: Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 2, San Diego 1.

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1931				1930			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending April 18 received by April 21	Week ending			Reports for week ending April 19 received by April 22
	Mar. 28	April 4	April 11		Mar. 29	April 5	April 12	
Chickenpox	523	441	573	615	620	734	668	345
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Diphtheria	37	59	73	49	55	61	70	46
Dysentery (Amoebic)	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	2
Dysentery (Bacillary)	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0
Erysipelas	12	25	22	26	16	17	21	13
Food Poisoning	7	2	0	12	35	3	1	2
German Measles	23	17	22	32	47	40	15	10
Gonococcus Infection	107	124	105	131	101	135	156	112
Hookworm	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Influenza	987	145	101	77	40	30	23	18
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Malaria	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	1
Measles	1,858	1,322	1,569	1,461	2,463	2,365	2,694	1,766
Meningitis (Epidemic)	4	10	8	3	10	13	11	14
Mumps	358	236	382	340	905	1,023	1,007	504
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Pellagra	0	1	3	2	1	2	2	3
Pneumonia (Lobar)	82	72	53	54	136	73	62	37
Poliomyelitis	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	0
Rabies (Animal)	30	14	32	14	27	25	10	15
Scarlet Fever	166	139	136	155	195	168	165	147
Smallpox	52	39	47	53	139	105	151	77
Syphilis	146	222	185	154	158	225	194	171
Tetanus	1	2	0	4	0	2	1	0
Trachoma	0	1	1	0	4	1	5	9
Trichinosis	0	0	2	1	1	14	7	4
Tuberculosis	229	250	206	170	320	216	220	217
Typhoid Fever	5	8	10	9	3	6	6	13
Undulant Fever	2	1	5	0	3	2	0	0
Whooping Cough	300	222	416	385	213	197	271	149
Septic Sore Throat	0	5	7	6	0	0	0	0
Totals	4,934	3,363	3,971	3,762	5,506	5,468	5,771	3,677

Influenza continues to recede.

Measles maintains its high level.

Animal rabies has become a matter of concern.

Septic sore throat is now being reported.

Poliomyelitis shows a low prevalence.